श्री सभापति: प्रोत्साहन करना तो शुरू कर दिया है, लेने की बात कीजिए।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, we are already taking steps, and we are already encouraging, and this particular aspect has been dealt with in the question, I think the one after the next, and if the question comes up for discussion, I would be able to give more details. But I can assure the hon. Member that even in some of the missile programmes. L&T is fully involved, Tata is fully involved. As far as manufacturing of some of the platforms is concerned, a number of private Indian companies are fully involved in manufacture of platforms.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question; Q. No. 465

घाटी से सेना को वापस बुलाना

*465. श्री बलवंत उर्फ बाल आपटे: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार घाटी से पूरी तरह से सेना हटाने के पक्ष में है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो क्या उपसेनाध्यक्ष का "सद्भावना अभियान" में दिया गया इस संबंध में बयान सरकार के दृष्टिकोण से अलग है; और

(ग) क्या इतनी अधिक संख्या में आतंकवादियों के गिरफतार होने तथा उक्त बयान से स्थानीय नागरिकों में भय पैदा नहीं होगा?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) (क) जम्मू-कश्मीर में तैनात सैनिकों की संख्या का बदलते हुए खतरे की संभावना के आधार पर सेना सतत रूप से मूल्यांकन करती है और उसकी समीक्षा करती है।

(ख) दोनों उप सेनाध्यक्षों में से किसी ने भी कोई बयान नहीं दिया था। ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि जिस बयान का हवाला दिया गया है वह सह सेनाध्यक्ष का है जो 12 मई, 2006 को क्षेत्रीय समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ था। जम्मू-कश्मीर से सैनिकों को हटाए जाने के बारे में सह सेनाध्यक्ष के बयान को मीडिया ने गलत ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया है।

(ग) सरकार द्वारा किए गए अन्य उपायों के साथ-साथ सेना, अन्य सुरक्षा बलों और राज्य पुलिस द्वारा आतंकवादियों के विरुद्ध कड़ी कार्रवाइयों से जम्मू-कश्मीर में शांति के अनुकूल माहौल बना है। इसे देखते हुए स्थानीय लोगों में यदि किसी प्रकार का कोई डर है तो वह निराधार है।

Withdrawal of Army from Valley

†*465. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in favour of complete withdrawal of army from the valley;

(b) if not, whether the statement made by the Deputy Chief of Army in 'Sadbhavana Abhiyan' differ with Government's view; and

(c) whether large scale arrests of terrorists and the above statement would not create fear among the local citizens?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on changing threat perception.

(b) No statement was made by any of the two Deputy Chiefs of Army Staff. It seems that the statement referred to is one attributed to the Vice Chief of Army Staff which appeared in some vernacular dailies on 12th May, 2006. Then Vice Chief of the Army Staff has been misquoted by the media regarding troop withdrawal from J&K.

(c) Relentless operations against the terrorists by the Army, other security forces and the State, Police, coupled with other measures taken by the Government, have resulted in an atmosphere conducive to the peace in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. In view of this, fear of the locals, is unfounded.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Sir, my first, a very minor but genuine, grievance about the answer is, the language. The reply in Hindi to the Hindi question uses the correct language. But in the English reply, it is mentioned that 'it appeared in some vernacular dailies'. Now, 'क्षेत्रीय भाषाएं' are regional languages and the word 'vernacular' smacks of colonialism. Why are you going...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I accept your suggestion. Henceforth, I shall use of word 'regional' and not vernacular. I entirely agree with you and accept you suggestion.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: This set up, even after 50 years...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is all right. You have referred to it and I have already replied to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, put the question.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: I am grateful. Now, Sir, in so far as the withdrawal of troops and the discussion thereof is concerned, it directly relates to the May 20th address of the Pakistan President, who had mentioned this as one of the three measures, coupling this with, apart from autonomy, the relaxation of borders. Sir, we have been seeing the dangers of both these things from time to time. When the talked about demilitarisation, he particularly referred to the Doda-Poonch area of the Jammu region. Now, Sir, today we are finding that this area is not free of any attacks from across the border. And yet, the reply given here is contradictory to what the Defence Minister had said about ten days ago. The reply here is very cautious and it gives rise to some doubt about the intentions of the Government when he says that the quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed, without making any commitment here that there will not be any withdrawal until crosss-border terrorism ends. The Defence Minister himself had said that given the stepped up terror activities in Jammu & Kashmir, the question of reduction of troops does not arise at all. Sir, along with this, in so far as the withdrawal is concerned, we are mostly concerned about Siachen where different voices are coming up-whether we are going to withdraw, when and under what conditions we are going to withdraw. In that interview, itself the Defence Minister has said the withdrawal of troops was dependent upon the outcome of the composite dialouge with Pakistan; and so far as Siachen is conerned, we firstly claimed our sovereignty only when Pakistan tried to occupy it and now the intentions of Pakistan are not at all clear and are doubtful, but we know their intentions and still we are equivocating on our presence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Therefore , my qustion has two legs. First, what is our clear stand? Is it as vague as is reflected in

the written reply, or, is it firm as is reflected in what the Defence Minister other day said? Secondly, what is the importance of Siachen in so far as the withdrawal of troops is concerned as we perceive and the reference is directly to the sovereignty of the defence of this country?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of withdrawal of the Forces is cocnerned, I don't think that there is any contradiction at all what I said on Jammu & Kashmir Press Conference and what I have stated there. There I stated, 'depending on the threat percept'. Here also the last words of the reply are, 'based on the changing threat perception'. If the threat perception increases, the deployment of Forces will increase, and if the threat perception decreases, the deployment of Forces will decrease. So, what is wrong in it? And I mentioned it clearly that while reviewing the situation I do not find that the threat percept has decreased. So, there is no question of withdrawal of troops. But one basic point the hon. Member should keep in mind is that the role of the Armed Forces is to protect the country from the external aggression, not to maintain the internal security. But when the internal security becomes difficult for the normal law enforcing agencies, namely, Police and other para-military forces, to maintain law and order, then the Armed Forces come to their aid. But it is not a permanent fixture. One should understand it very clearly. Therefore, it is incumbent on the threat percept. So, there is no contradiction. The second point, which is to be understood in respect of Siachen, is that there is no sovereignty of Defence; there is a sovereignty of the country. So, far, it is the responsibility of the Defence Forces to protect the sovereignty of the country and, therefore, the question of withdrawal of troops from Siachen does not arise. I do not know how many voices have come from where, but I made it quite clear that talks are going on with Pakistan in respect of Siachen. I think, now it would be the eleventh round of talk. this talk began from the last part of the last century sometime between 1988-89. Then rounds of talk have already taken place including two at the technical level. Sometimes, there has been progress and sometimes there has ben regression and no solution has been found till now. Very soon, there will be another round of talk and we do believe that to resolve the problem we will engage ourselves in continuous dialogue as we cannot change our neighbours. Neighbours are there to stay in our neighbourhood. Therefore, best course should be to live in peace with them if it is possible. If it is not possible, we will protect ourselves. Therefore, talks are going on. I am sorry, 9th round of talks has been completed. Tenth

round is going to take place on 23rd and 24th. And, the talks began not from 1988-89, but from 1986 after 1984; it started from 1986.

So far as the observations of the President of Pakistan are concerned, it is his observation. It is not necessary for me to agree with his perception of the situation.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Regarding the fear in the minds of the people about their security, Sir, we found the other day in Doda, the Village Defence Committees in most places were not constituted; if constituted, and if at all some guns were given to them, they were of the 303 variety and we have seen the result of such an insecurity killing of scores of people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, come to your question straightway.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Is the Government going to ensure that every village will have a Village Defence Committee and will the Government ensure, as was mentioned by the Defence Minister the other day, giving them sophisticated weapons because 303 cannot fight the AK-47?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As far as Village Defence Committees are concerned, we are encouraging to have them, if possible, in every Village. We are encouraging them and we are recruiting people. In regard to the weapons, yes, there is a point, that is, if sophisticated weapons are used by the terrorists or the attackers, with weapons of less potency, villages cannot face the challenges. But, there is other danger also that if the sophisticated weapons are given without adequate training about their protection, then there will be further attacks to snatch those weapons because there would also be an incentive for creating panic to snatch those sophisticated weapons. Therefore, to ensure the training and to ensure that the security of the weapons should also be there, we are thinking of making some arrangements that I discussed with the Court Commander there, the Chief Minister of State was also there with me. The Home Minister is also fully aware of it. The whole objective is to see that Village Defence Committee becomes effective to counter the attacks and to repeal the attackers. We have to see through what instrumentality they will be able to do it-by giving weapons or by enhancing

their mobility. The objective is to make them more effective to protect their houses.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Sir, this is a very serious issues that has been raised and I do express my support to the approach which the Defence Minister has taken in this House. My question is related to section (c) of his answer and while I take this opportunity to salute our Armed Forces, who are working in Kashmir against terrorists in the most difficult of circumstances, I am constrained to draw the attention of the Minister, through you, Sir, to several instances in which innocent people, including children, have become the targets and have actually lost their lives. In the last session of Parliament, we had, in fact, expressed concern about the fact that three children had been killed in such an operation. I have also received reports from several women's organisations working in Kashmir in which....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to your question straightway.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: They have also faced harassment. So, my question to the Minister is: given the fact that we are moving towards this creation of a conducive atmosphere, peace in Kashmir, these actions of the Armed Forces have a very dangerous potent to that process, and, therefore, what measures is the Ministry contemplating to prevent such actions and where such actions have taken place, what are the measures that the Ministry has taken in this regard?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, as far as the question of the human rights violation is concerned, we have not only sensitised the Armed Forces but we take strong measures also whenever such incidents take place, and, the strong measures include the regorous imprisonment, dismissal from the services and various other types of punishments. But, at the same time, it will have to be kept in view that when such incidents take place, we have explained every incident, and, on a number of occasions, we have pointed out that there have been mistakes. But to just generalise it, it would not be correct to say. In order to create an atmosphere amongst the people that Armed Forces are there to help them, to protect them; and , not to be aggressor because it is not Army's occupation. The Army ought to help the people and protect the people.

In the unfortunate incident which took place in Doda and the adjacent village, where 22 persons were killed, one of the complaints was that the Armed Forces were located at such a place, because of the difficult terrain, that they could not reach the place in time-first, they have to come up and then they have to go down. So, they wanted to have the presence of Armed Forces physically in that area. So, my most respectful submission would be that—the point which I was trying to drive at the Sadbhavana Abhiyan—the Army is not merely protecting the people but the Army is constructing roads. In the rural areas, where the State has failed to provide the lady doctors to help the women, we are providing lady doctors, we are constructing schools, we are constructing roads, we are providing health facilities, we are adopting certain villages to create an atmosphere for Sadbhavana Abhiyan.

And, here too, in order to have the easy communication from the camp of the security forces to the village, while visiting the place, I instructed the persons concerned to construct a road from the Sadbhavana Farm so that it bcomes easily accessible to the areas. We are also doing these types of activities, and, at the same time, I can assure the hon. Members that if there be any violation of human rights and if there by any actions, that will be sternly dealt with and appropriate punishment will be given.

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while congratulating our Armed Forces in Jammu and Kashmir for the wonderful role and the confidence they have been able to build in the Valley, especially in the last few years, I would like to put a question. Sir, there have been report specially in the Western Press, from time to time, and in the Pakistani Press, that during the negotiations with Pakistani officials and the political leaders, there have been proposals for withdrawal or, or, reduction of our Armed Forces in the Valley in order to build confidence with Pakistan, which is part of what we call, Confidence Building Measures. Is there any discussion, on the reduction of forces, with Pakistan? Is there any proposal for that, apart from Siachen; I am talking about the Valley.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, sometimes, these types of suggestions come and we also point out that the Confidence Building Measures' can be built up if there is lesser number of terrorist activities and if there is lesser number of terrorist related activities. As I mentioned, and, I gave a specific figure, that 59 training camps, launching pads are

still existing on the other side of the border, and, I most respectfully respected the President of Pakistan to keep his own words. He said, 'I will not allow the land of Pakistan to be utilized for terrorist activities against my neighbour'. Therefore, confidence building would be created, and, we withdrew some troops last year, not this year, and that too we did on our own perceptions, not as a result to create confidence in the mind of somebody else. That is why, in the first part of the statement. I said, the deployment of the Forces always depends on the threat perception.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल: सभापति महोदय, माननीय रक्षा मंत्री जी ने यह स्वीकार किया है कि threat perception या खतरा अभी टला नहीं है, इसलिए जितनी आवश्यकता है, सेनाएं वहां रहेंगी। इस के लिए आप को धन्यवाद । लेकिन आप ने अपने उत्तर के भाग "ग" में कहा है कि सरकार द्वारा किए गए अन्य उपायों के साथ-साथ सेना, अन्य सुरक्षा बलों, राज्य पुलिस द्वारा आतंकवादियों के विरुद्ध कड़ी कार्यवाही से जम्मू-कश्मीर में शांति का अनुकूल वातावरण बना है। सभापति महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो शांति का माहौल बना है, यह केवल सरकारी क्षेत्र में है, जम्मू-कश्मीर में है या पूरे देश में है? क्या देश रक्षा मंत्री महोदय की इस बात को स्वीकार करने को तैयार है कि इस समय जम्मू-कश्मीर में शांति का माहौल है और वहां शांति की दिशा में प्रगति हो रही है? महोदय, लगता यह है कि अभी भी आतंकवादियों का आतंक बराबर जारी है। इसलिए मेरा सिम्पल प्रश्न यह है कि जो माहौल आप बता रहे हैं, इस के पीछे आप के क्या कारण हैं जिस से आप संतुष्ट हैं कि शांति का माहौल बना है और मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि आतंकवादियों की गतिविधियां पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले इस वर्ष कितनी घटी हैं या कितनी बढ़ी हैं? धन्यवाद।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the question of the hon. Member is concerned, I can give certain figures. But, before that, I would like to point out how I have come to the conclusion that there has been an improvement in the situation. It is not my claim that the terrorist activities have been conpletely stopped. Still, there are terroist-related incidents and Doda is the just example. But, when I find that the number of tourists is increasing, when I find that the number of normal activities, which were almost suspended, including the economic activities, is increasing, and when I find that there is a strong urge among the people to establish contacts from the other side of the border and the way the Aman Sethu or mass communication has been well received by the people of both sides, these are the indications that the things are improving. The dialogue which is taking place with the various political parties, Round Table Conference took place in February, it is going to take place in the latter part of this

month, these are the indications. Therefore, atmosphere is being changed. But, I would not claim that there has been total stoppage of the terrorist activities. And, unfortunately, this hard-care reality will have to be recognised that terrorism, like electricity, cannot be switched off or switched on. It is a continuing process in many countries. I would not like to give the example of Ireland where it has been going on for almost a century. But, we are trying. So far as the statistical information is concerned, the terrorist-related incidents, I am just giving the figure of the last three years, in the year 2003, it was 3,401; in 2004, it was 2,565 a reduction; in the year 2005, it was 1,990; reduction is by 22.4 per cent. The reduction is almost 21.2 per cent in the number of civilians killed. The reduction in the security forces killed is by 32 per cent. The number of infiltration and ex-infiltrations and bids eliminated by Army has been reduced by almost 23 per cent. The number of terrorists killed—if infiltration is more, more number of terrorists would be killed - has also come down by almost 29 per cent. So, these are some of the figures, I must say, these are some estimates, becuase when the infiltrators enter into a country, they do not give notification to the security forces saying "We are entering into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan, so, you send some people to count us as to how many people are coming, or, how many people are going. That does not take place . These are estimates. But even in these estimated figures, we are finding that there has been some reduction in infiltration.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I appreciate successive Governments for their persistent efforts towards normalising relations with Pakistan. Terrorist activities are also coming down. In spite of that, Sir, there are hotbeds of terrorism in this country; local elements, which are being instigated by external forces, mostly the ISI, are participating in it. Recently, one incident took place in which one Mr. Suryanarayana from our State has been murdered by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Taliban claimed that he was murdered on the instructions of Pakistan. It is on record, Sir. I have full confidence in the capacity of assessment of the hon. Defence Minister. What is you level of confidence that we can normalise our relations with Pakistan? What is your level of confidence, in spite of your best efforts?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, hon. Member knows it fully well that it does not depend on my level of confidence. It depends on the

overall geopolitical environment and security. I am just speaking on the point, which I made while answering the question, that we cannot change our neighbours. Neighbours are there to be in our neighbourhood. Therefore, the policy, which I am trying to pursue, is that if we have to live with our neighbours, let us live in peace. Do not live in perpetual tension, live in peace, if possible. I do agree. We are exactly trying to do so despite the fact that a driver of Kerala was killed by the Taliban, Mr. Suryanarayana has been killed, and the message is loud and clear - Taliban don't want India's participation in the development of Afghanistan. Therefore, they will try to create a situation where we respond in panic to the desire of the Taliban and the extremists. Here, unfortunately, though Pakistan has denied it, there are certain indications that the ISI is equally active. I am told that the ISI had its hands in this. In fact, that is one of the points which we are trying to convey to Pakistan that terrorists are friends of nobody. If they are against India today, they are equally against Pakistani establishment. What is happening within Pakistan is a clear eye-opener to the fact that terrorists are friends of nobody. I do not know whether they are friends of themselves.

Foreign investment in single branded retailing

*466. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to permit FDI in retail trade Government have decided to allow foreign investment in single branded retailing outlets and to liberalise the foreign investment rules across sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of branded foreign retailing outlets set up so far, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) and (b) The Government has allowed Foreign Direct Investment up to 51% with prior Government approval, in the retail trade of 'Single Brand' products subject to the following conditions: